Government of India from Government of Pakistan regarding environmental aspects of Siachen Glaciers, although media reports from Pakistan occasionally refer to the environmental benefits of the demilitarisation of the area. Also, in proportion to the vastness of the Siachen Glacier, the actual deployment of the troops is small, which can have negligible effect on its melting.

(c) Geological Survey of India has also undertaken studies on recession of several Himalayan glaciers, including Siachen Glacier. These studies revealed that the majority of glaciers of Himalayan region are passing through a phase of recession, as has been the case with the glaciers located in other parts of the world. The rate of recession in Himalayan region in different climatic zones is found to be variable in different years. This variable rate of recession can be attributed to the several climatic factors.

Special Agricultural Zones

*532. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up Special Agricultural Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Agriculture to set up Special Agriculture Zones.

Environmental clearance to hydel power plant in **Kerala**

*533. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had sent a team to examine the objections raised by certain quarters against the proposed 163 MW hydel power projects at the Athirapally Waterfalls in Kerala;